



1. The Committee on the UFOs

2. The Committee on the UFOs was impressed (as have been others; finally, the Committee on the UFOs) by the lack of sound data in the great majority of the first cases, also, in the lack of object following the preliminary report. The Committee on the limited facilities of the AFSA section concerning the lack of illustrations of significant sightings discussed in a similar manner the following:

1. Springfield, Ohio (2 August 1952); Farmington, Utah (2 July 1952);  
2. Great Falls, Montana (13 August 1950); Bozeman, Montana (1 September 1950);  
3. Washington, D. C. area (29 July 1952); and Florida A. & M. U. (5 August 1952);  
4. Ford River, Michigan (29 July 1952); and  
5. Rogers, Maine (20 October 1952).

After review and discussion of these cases (and about 35 others, in some detail), the Panel concluded that reasonable explanations could be suggested for most sightings and that detection and collection could be improved (given additional data) that other cases might be explained in a similar manner. The Panel pointed out that because of the brevity of some sightings (e.g. 2-3 seconds) and the familiarity of the witnesses, expressions themselves clearly (sometimes) that no conclusive explanation could not be expected for every case reported. Furthermore, it was considered that, normally, it would be a great waste of effort to try to solve most of the sightings, unless such cases would be used in a training and educational program (see below). The writings of Charles Fort were referenced to show

...which should have appeared (as have been others; again, ...  
...the lack of sound data in the great majority ...  
...the lack of speedy follow-up and publicity ...  
...the lack of direct limited facilities of the AFSA section ...  
...the lack of adequate facilities of significant sightings discussed in detail ...  
...the lack of soundings

Belmont, Ohio (2 August 1952); Farmington, Utah (2 July 1952);  
Great Falls, Montana (15 August 1950); Park, Montana (1 September  
1952); Washington, D. C. area (29 July 1952); and Santa Ana, ...  
Cajon (5 August 1952); New River, Michigan (29 July 1952); and ...  
Beaver Lake, Maine (25 October 1952).

After review and discussion of these cases (and about 35 others ...  
in some detail), the Panel concluded that reasonable explanations ...  
could be suggested for most sightings and that deduction and common sense ...  
might be induced (given additional data) that other cases ...  
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be a great waste of effort to try to solve most of the sightings, ...  
and such action would result in a training and educational program ...  
(and also). The writings of Charles Fort were referenced to show



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that "strange things in the sky" had been recorded for hundreds of years. It appeared obvious that there was no single explanation for a majority of the things seen. The presence of radar and astro-nautical specialists on the Panel proved of value at once in their confident recognition of phenomena related to their fields. It was apparent that specialists in such additional fields as psychology, aptitude, aerodynamics, ornithology and military air operations would extend the ability of the Panel to recognize many new categories of hitherto unknown phenomena.

#### OPINION OF PANEL

The Panel concluded unanimously that there was no evidence of a direct threat to national security in the objects sighted. Instances of "Foo Fighters" were cited. These were unexplained phenomena sighted by aircraft pilots during World War II in both European and Far East theaters of operation wherein "balls of light" would fly near or with the aircraft and maneuver rapidly. They were believed to be electrostatic (similar to St. Elmo's fire) or electrical magnetic phenomena or possibly light reflections from ice crystals in the air, but their exact cause or nature was never defined. Both Robertson and Alderson had been concerned in the investigation of these phenomena, but David T. Griggs (Professor of Geophysics at the University of California at Los Angeles) is believed to have been the most knowledgeable person on this subject. If the term "flying saucers" had been popular in 1943 - 1945, these objects would

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It was interesting that in at least two cases, notwithstanding that the object sighted was categorized by Robertson and Whitten as possibly "U.S. fighters", to date unexplained but not dangerous, they were not happy thus to dismiss the sightings by calling them hoaxes. It was their feeling that these phenomena are not beyond the domain of present knowledge of physical sciences; however.

[REDACTED]

It was the Panel's opinion that some of the Air Force concern over U.S. (notwithstanding Mr. Defense Command anxiety over Soviet satellite tracks) was probably caused by public pressure. The result being, is that the Air Force has instituted a fine channel for receiving reports of anything anyone sees in the sky and fails to understand. This has been particularly encouraged in popular articles on this and other subjects, such as space travel and science fiction. The result is the mass receipt of low-grade reports which tend to overload channels of communication with material quite irrelevant to hostile objects that might some day appear. The Panel agreed generally that this mass of poor-quality reports containing little, if any, scientific data was of no value. Quite the opposite, it was possibly dangerous in having a military service foster public concern in "mysterious" "murmuring lights". The implication being, since the interested agency was military, that these objects were a threat to potential direct threats to national security. Accordingly, the need for declassification made itself apparent. Comments on a possible educational program are enumerated below.

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It was the opinion of Mr. Robertson that the "crucial" problem in the development of the defense was the detection and identification of enemy V-1 and V-2 guided missiles prior to their operation, as in World War II. In the 1943-1944 intelligence operation (PROBATION), there was excellent intelligence and by June 1944 there was material evidence of the existence of "V-1s" obtained from crashed vehicles in England. This evidence gave the investigating team a basis upon which to operate. The absence of any "V-1s" resulting from unexplained U.F.O. sightings lends a "wild" (and the wing) nature to the MISC problem. The results of their investigation, to date, strongly indicate that no evidence of hostile attack or danger exists. Furthermore, the current reporting system would have little value in the case of detection of enemy attack by conventional aircraft or guided missiles; under such conditions "PROBATION" would be available almost at once.

#### REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM

It was interesting to note that none of the members of the Panel were loath to accept that this earth might be visited by extraterrestrial intelligent beings of some sort, some day. What they did not find was any evidence that related the objects sighted to space travelers. Mr. Pomeroy, in his presentation, showed how he had eliminated each of the known and probable causes of sightings leaving him "unconnected" as the only one remaining in many cases. Pomeroy's background as an astronomical engineer and technical intelligence



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...Project Officer, AIRCRAFT 20 25 months) could not be  
...However, the Panel could not accept any of the cases  
...by him because they were say, unvaluated reports.

...explanations of the sightings were suggested in some  
...and in others the time of sighting was so short as to cause  
...of visual impressions. It was noted by Dr. Constant and  
...that extraterrestrial artifacts, if they did exist, are no  
...new thing; rather, they are in the realm of natural phenomena  
...subject to scientific study, just as cosmic rays were at the time  
...on their discovery 20 to 30 years ago. This was an attitude in  
...which Dr. Robertson did not concur, as he felt that such artifacts  
...would be of immediate and great concern not only to the U. S. but  
...to all countries. (Nothing like a common threat to unite peoples!)

Dr. Page noted that present astronomical knowledge of the solar  
...system makes the existence of intelligent beings (as we know them)  
...elsewhere than on the earth extremely unlikely, and the  
...concentration of their attention by any controllable means confined  
...to any one continent of the earth quite preposterous.

THE CASE OF THE SIGHTING

This case was considered significant because of the excellent  
...evidence in the form of Kodachrome motion picture films  
(about 1000 frames). The Panel studied these films, the case history,  
...interpretation, and received a briefing by representatives of  
...the Photo Interpretation Laboratory on their analysis of the  
...film. This team had expended (at Air Force request) approximately

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... minutes of professional and sub-professional time in the  
production of graph plots of individual frames of the film, showing  
apparent and relative motion of objects and variation in their  
light intensity. It was the opinion of the P.I.L. representatives  
that the objects sighted were not birds, balloons or aircraft,  
and that reflections because there was no blinding while passing  
through 60° of arc and were, therefore, "solid" images. Flare of  
motion and variation in light intensity of the objects were dis-  
played. While the Panel Members were impressed by the evident  
enthusiasm, industry and extent of effort of the P.I.L. team, they  
could not accept the conclusions reached. Some of the reasons for  
this were as follows:

- a. A semi-spherical object can readily produce a reflection  
of sunlight without "flaring" through 60° of arc travel.
- b. Although no data was available on the behavior of birds or  
polyethylene balloons in bright sunlight, the apparent  
motions, sizes and brightnesses of the objects were  
considered strongly to suggest birds, particularly after  
the Panel viewed a short film showing high reflectivity  
of coagula in bright sunlight.
- c. Brief description of the objects sighted as "circular,  
black-white" in color would be expected in cases of  
specular reflections of sunlight from convex surfaces where  
the intensity of the reflection would obscure other portions  
of the object.



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1. Objects in the Great Falls case were believed to have probably been aircraft, and the bright lights such reflectors.
  2. There was no valid reason for the attempt to relate the objects in the Termination sighting to those in the Great Falls sighting. This may have been due to misunderstanding in their relative. The objects in the Great Falls sighting are strongly suspected of being reflectors of aircraft known to have been in the area.
  3. The intensity change in the Termination lights was too great for acceptance of the U.F.O. hypothesis that the apparent pulsed and changing intensity of the lights indicated extremely high speed in small orbital paths.
  4. Apparent lack of guidance of investigators by those familiar with U.F.O. reports and explanations.
  5. Analysis of light intensity of objects made from duplicate rather than original film. The original film was noted to have a much lighter background (affecting relative brightness of object) and the object appeared much less bright.
  6. Method of obtaining data of light intensity appeared faulty because of unreliability of equipment and questionable assumptions in making averages of readings.
  7. No data had been obtained on the sensitivity of Kodachrome film to light of various intensities using the same camera type at the same lens openings.
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1. THE PROBLEMS

The Panel Members were in agreement with O/SI opinion that, although evidence of any direct threat from these sightings was lacking, related dangers might well exist involving some

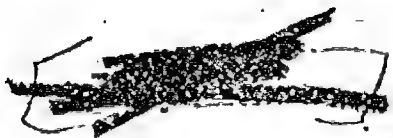
- a. Misidentification of actual enemy activities by defense personnel.
- b. Overloading of enemy by reporting channels with "false" information (Parade & signal radio analogy - Barman).
- c. Susceptibility of pilots to mass hysteria and greater vulnerability to possible enemy psychological warfare.

Although not the concern of O/SI, the first two of these problems may seriously affect the Air Defense Intelligence system, and should be studied by experts, possibly under ASD. If U.S.O.'s become discredited in a reaction to the "flying saucer" scare, or if reporting channels are saturated with false and poorly documented reports, our capability of detecting hostile activity will be reduced.

Dr. Vago noted that more competent screening or filtering of reported sightings at or near the source is required, and that this can best be accomplished by an educational program.

2. THE PROBLEMS OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

The map prepared by ASD showing geographic locations of essentially reported unexplained sightings (1952 only) was examined by the Panel. This map showed clusters in certain strategic areas such as Los Angeles. This might be explained on the basis of 24-hour watchful guard and




On the other hand, the results were not such. On the other hand, there had been no sightings in the vicinity of sensitive sites. It was concluded that there were considerably multiple cases of unexplained sightings in non-strategic areas. Furthermore, there appeared to be no logical relationship to population centers. The Panel could find no ready explanation for these observations. It was noted, however, that in terrestrial observations were to be observed it would be likely that they would be seen first near foreign areas rather than around U. S.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONSIDER

The Panel was of the opinion that the present ATIS program to place 100 imaginative 35 mm. stereo cameras in the hands of various airport control tower operators would probably produce little value. It was pointed to U.F.O.'s. However, it was recognized that such action would tend to allay public concern in the subject until an educational program had taken effect. It was believed that prevalence of these cameras was partly the result of public pressure in July 1952. With the poor results of the year-long Project ATIS program of 24-hour instrumentation watch (two frames of film showing nothing distinguishable), a widespread program of sky-watching would not be expected to yield much direct data of value.

There was considerable discussion of a possible "sky patrol" by amateur astronomers (Hynd) and by wide-angle cameras (Pogo). Dr. Pogo and Dr. Robertson pointed out that at present a considerable fraction



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Dr. [REDACTED] has been for many years under surveillance  
in [REDACTED] in several instances and certain observing programs as  
well as the mapping program of the various institutions listed below.  
Although the attention of these astronomers is largely directed  
toward identified rather than unidentified objects, no case of any  
unidentified object is known to <sup>the Panel</sup> Dr. Pogo or Dr. Lynch. Such  
an object would most certainly be reported if found on patrol plates.

There was also where an astronomer refused to interrupt his  
work in order to photograph an alleged sighting in a different  
part of the sky. This led Dr. Lynch to say that, if a program of  
watching could be an adjunct of planned astronomical programs, little  
work would be involved and that the trained astronomical personnel  
might photograph a sighting of an unidentified object.

The location of some of these programs and their directors are  
referred to as:

- a. Harvard University, Cambridge and W. M. Keck (meteor patrol,  
Hawaii).
- b. Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago and Fort Davis, Texas  
(several programs) - Michael (comets), Kuiper (asteroids),  
Morgan (wide angle camera).
- c. University of Alaska, Fairbanks (comets) - Elvey
- d. Dominion Observatory, Ottawa (meteors) - Williams
- e. Lick Observatory, California (sky map) - Minnowald
- f. Hale Observatory, California (sky map) - Shano

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It was agreed by the Panel that no government-sponsored program of official which might say patrol is workable at the present time, and that the encouragement of amateur technicians to undertake such a job, even might have the adverse effect of over-emphasizing "hobbying" activities in the public mind. However, the issue of radar technology for recording particular radar echoes would serve several purposes, including the better understanding of radar interference as well as identification of U.S.A. to.

#### THE PROBLEM OF SIGNAL IDENTIFICATION

This characteristic problem of radar operation wherein the pulse signal (of approximately the same frequency) from station A may be picked up on the screen of station B and show as a high-speed track or series of dots was recognized to have probably caused a number of U.S.C. reports. This problem was underlined by information received indicating ICB concern in solving this problem of signal identification before service use of very high-speed aircraft or guided missiles (1955-1956). <sup>Dr. K. H. H. H.</sup> Dr. Barlow collected that one answer to this problem was the use of a "suppressor filter" in the receiving circuit. <sup>Another</sup> Dr. Alvarez suggested that the problem might be better solved by the use of a "resonant filter" wherein the operator receiving "very fast tracks" (on the order of 1000-20,000 c.p.s.) would operate a circuit which would alter slightly his station's pulse frequency rate. If the signal received on the screen had been caused by actual interference with another station, the track would now show itself at a different distance

  
and the nature of the object, as it still appeared at all. Dr. Abington  
stated that a hypothetical solution was simpler and would cost much less than  
a "systematic search".

#### RECENTLY OBSERVED


The reported cases were examined: one at Palomar Mountain, California,  
in October 1959, when cosmic ray counters were "off scale" for a few seconds;  
apparently while a "V" of flying objects was observed visually; and two, a  
series of observations by the "Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association" from  
August 1958 to January 1959, when cosmic ray coincidence counters failed  
frequently. Original diagrams and records were available for the latter, and  
Dr. Abington was able quickly to point out that the recorded data were  
undoubtedly due to instrumental effects that would have been recognized  
as such by more experienced observers.

The implication that radioactive effects were correlated with  
unidentified flying objects in these two cases was, therefore, rejected  
by the Panel.

#### TRAINING PROGRAM

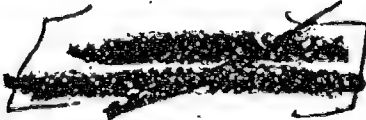
The Panel's concept of a broad educational program integrating  
efforts of all concerned agencies was that it should have two major  
aims: training and "determing".

The training aim would result in proper recognition of naturally  
familiar objects (e.g., balloons, aircraft reflections) as well as  
natural phenomena (meteors, fireballs, mirages, noctilucent clouds).  
Both visual and radar recognition are concerned. There would be many

  
why.

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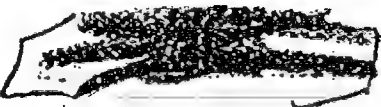




forming an anti-Communist then enlisted personnel to combat and research personnel. Relative emphasis and degree of explanation of different programs would correspond to the categories of duty (e.g., radio operators; pilots; combat zone operators; ground observer corps personnel; and civilians and enlisted men in other categories.) This training should result in a marked reduction in reports caused by misidentification and resultant confusion.

The "training" can would result in reduction in public interest in "living enemies" which today evokes a strong psychological reaction. This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles. Each of such education would be actual case histories which had been pending at first but later explained. As in the case of confining trials, there is much less stimulation if the "enemy" is known. Such a program should tend to reduce the current gullibility of the public and consequently their susceptibility to clever hostile propaganda. The Panel noted that the general absence of Russian propaganda based on a subject with so many obvious possibilities for exploitation might indicate a possible Russian anti-war policy.

Members of the Panel had various suggestions related to the planning of such an educational program. It was felt strongly that psychologists familiar with mass psychology should advise on the nature and extent of the program. In this connection, Dr. Hovley Cantrell (Princeton University) was suggested. Cantrell authored "Invasion from



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...in study in the psychology of panic, written about the famous  
Dr. H. H. H. incident in 1939) and has since performed advanced  
laboratory studies in the field of perception. The names of Ben H. H.  
(University of Michigan) and Leo Rosten were mentioned as possibly  
available as consulting psychologists. Also, someone familiar with  
radio communication techniques, perhaps an advertising expert, would be  
helpful. Arthur Godfrey was mentioned as possibly a valuable channel  
of communication reaching a mass audience of certain levels. Dr. H. H.  
suggested the U. S. Navy (USN) Special Devices Center, San Francisco, Cal.,  
as a potentially valuable organization to assist in such an educational  
program. The training techniques used by this agency for aircraft  
identification during the past are given cited as an example of a similar  
educational task. (The Sanitary Co. which made World War II training  
films (motion picture and slide strips) was also suggested, as well as  
Walt Disney, Inc. animated cartoons. Dr. H. H. suggested that the  
entire network in the U. S. might be a potential source of educational  
talent "to spread the gospel". It was believed that business  
clubs, high schools, colleges, and television stations would all be  
pleased to cooperate in the showing of documentary type motion pictures  
if prepared in an interesting manner. The use of two cases showing  
first the "mystery" and then the "explanation" would be forceful.

To plan and execute such a program, the Panel believed was no  
small task. The current investigatory group at AEC would, of necessity,  
have to be closely integrated for support with respect to not only the

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... of "public relations" at different distances  
... the various conditions at the office.

The issue of one to two days, months and quarters and a subscription  
... including this would be necessary in addition. The French  
... that might obtain, temporarily expanded as necessary.  
... in implementing any action taken as a result of  
... . Experience and records in AFSS would be of value  
... the public educational and service training program envisaged.

[Mr. Belmont] at least, was of the opinion that after public gallantry  
... and the various organizations, such as AFSS, had been trained  
... the more readily explained obvious sightings, there would  
... be a role for a very modest-sized AFSS section to cope with the  
... of items of possible scientific intelligence value. This  
... should concentrate on energetically following up (perhaps on  
... of qualified Air Force Scientific Advisory Board members)  
... cases which seemed to indicate the evidence of unconventional  
... artifacts. Reports of such artifacts would be expected to  
... arise mainly from Western outposts in far closer proximity to the  
... than certain than Soviet, Soviet.

#### INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

The French took cognizance of the existence of such groups as the  
"William Flying Saucer Investigators" (Los Angeles) and the "Aerial  
... Research Organization (Massachusetts). It was believed that  
such organizations should be watched because of their potentially

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1. Director John H. Johnson  
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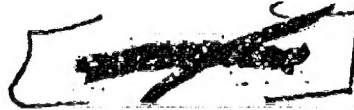
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HISTORICAL CENTER

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CONTENTS - SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON  
UNEXPLAINED AIRCRAFT SIGHTINGS

As of 15 January 1953

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4. Summary Report of Sightings at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.
5. Report of USAF Research Center, Cambridge, Mass., Investigation of the "Electrical Phenomena" (Project 62001).
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7. Summary of Sightings at Tucson, Utah, 2 July 1947.
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19. Sample Polyethylene "Falling" Balloon (54 inches square).
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21. Microfilm: official letters and foreign intelligence reports dealing with subject.
22. Copies of popular published works dealing with subject (articles in magazines, newspaper clippings and books).